

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JERUSA 00764 161340Z  
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W  
-----006891 161358Z /53

Z O 161300Z MAR 78  
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 0526  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT FLASH  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JERUSALEM 0764

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM CHARGE VIETS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, MOSP, IS, LE, XF  
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH BEGIN ON IDF WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON

REF: STATE 67617

1. I CONVEYED POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL TO BEGIN AT 1230 TODAY (MARCH 16). HE ACCEPTED MESSAGE CALMLY AND IN A NOTICEABLY SUBDUED MANNER; THERE WERE NO PYROTECHNICS WITH HIS OWN REMARKS. IT WAS THE MOST PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE BY BEGIN THAT I HAVE WITNESSED. HE EXPRESSED NO UNDUE ALARM AT OUR POSITION ON IDF WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTHERN LEBANO, POSSIBLE HAVING BEEN FOREWARNED BY DINITZ AS TO WHAT TO EXPECT.

2. BEGIN STATED SEVERAL TIMES HIS CONVICTION THAT, IF THE IDF "WITHDREW TONIGHT," THE TERRORISTS WOULD RETURN  
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TOMMORROW TO RECREATE THE PREVIOUS SITUATION THREATENING ISRAEL'S SECURITY. HE SAID HE WOULD NOT TOLERATE THAT, AND REFERRED BOTH TO THE CIVILIAN CASUALTIES OF RAIDS SUCH AS OCCURRED LAST SATURDAY AND TO THE CASUALITIES SUSTAINED BY THE IDF YESTERDAY. ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT BELABOR THE POINT, BEGIN WAS ALSO QUIZZICAL ABOUT THE NATURE OF ANY UN FORCE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON AND OBVIOUSLY

DOUBTS ITS EFFICACY.

3. BEGIN DID NOT CHALLENGE MY REMARKS ABOUT THE PARALYSING EFFECT OF A PROLONGED IDF PRESENCE IN LEBANON ON EGYPT'S ABILITY TO REMAIN ENGAGED IN THE PEACE PROCESS. I MADE THE POINT TWICE; THE SECOND TIME AROUND BEGIN REMARKED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD.

4. THE POTENTIAL FOR TROUBLE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS WAS ALSO VERY MUCH ON HIS MIND. AT ONE POINT HE ASKED REHETORICALLY WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE UNSC PASSED A RESOLUTION TONIGHT CALLING FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. HE CHARACTERIZED ISRAEL'S DILEMMA IN THAT CASE AS FOLLOWS: (1) ISRAELI COMPLIANCE AND THE RETURN OF THE PLO OR, (2) ISRAELI NON-COMPLIANCE AND CONDEMNATION BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

5. BEGIN WONDERED WHY THE US DID NOT TABLE ITS OWN RESOLUTION PREDICATED ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS. IT COULD THEN ANNOUNCE, HE MAINTAINED, THAT IT WOULD SUPPORT ITS OWN RESOLUTION AND OPPOSE ANY OTHER. I REMINDED HIM THAT THERE WERE MANY WAYS TO FRAME A RESOLUTION, AND REASSURED HIM THAT THE US WOULD NOT STAND IDLY BY AND ALLOW ISRAEL TO BE UNILATERALLY CONDEMNED.

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6. BEGIN ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION OF CERTAIN POINTS. I AM SENDING THIS INITIAL REPORT, THEREFORE, TO FACILITATE THE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO HIS QUERIES AND WILL REPORT MORE FULLY ON THE MEETING FROM TEL AVIV LATER THIS AFTERNOON.

7. FOLLOWING ARE QUESTIONS POSED BY BEGIN:

--IS THE US ASKING THAT ISRAELI FORCES WITHDRAW FROM LEBANON BEFORE ARRANGMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO PREVENT THE RETURN OF PALESTINIAN GUERILLAS TO THE AREA? OR WILL THE TIME PRIOR TO IMPLEMENTING ANY RESOLUTION CALLING FOR WITHDRAWAL BE USED TO PRODUCE SUCH ARRANGMENTS?

--DOES THE US SHARE THE ISRAELI ASSUMPTION THAT THE PALESTINIANS WOULD RETURN IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH ARRANGEMENTS?

--CAN A UN FORCE PREVENT FATAH (SIC) FROM RETURNING, AND DOES THE US ENVISAGE AN ACTIVE OR A PASSIVE FORCE?

8. COMMENT: BELIEVE WE WOULD BE WELL SERVED BY AS

PROMPT A RESPONSE AS POSSIBLE. BEGIN SUGGESTED SEVERAL  
TIMES THAT "WE REASON TOGETHER" ON THE LEBANESE  
SITUATION, AND AT ONE POINT SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO  
DOING SO WITH THE PRESIDENT. IT IS CONCEIVABLE HE MAY  
TRY TO Q-AND-A US ALL THE WAY TO NEXT TUESDAY.

9. PLEASE PASS THIS MESSAGE TO AMBASSADOR LEWIS.  
NEWLIN

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INTERVENTION, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, PALESTINIANS, MEETINGS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, CAT-B  
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**Draft Date:** 16 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PEPR, MOPS, PBOR, IS, LE, XF, US, (BEGIN, MENACHEM)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014